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STAT

Ford's shake-up...

• There is little question that William Colby had to be replaced eventually in order to rebuild the image and respect of the Central Intelligence Agency (although he has acquitted himself extremely well in the congressional investigation committees). It was thought, however, that it would take a professional of stature to revive the agency. This gives George Bush the task of overcoming his inexperience in intelligence matters and keeping himself and the CIA free of politics — so as to convince Americans that his dominant concern is the rehabilitation of their most important intelligence agency.

In short, Mr. Ford's shake-up creates some new problems. The President has made some admirable Cabinet appointments in the past and demonstrated his commitment to quality and independence of thought from his subordinates. He now risks that record if his new appointees fail to demonstrate that they place good government above personal loyalty and politics.